

for fall migrants, I succeeded in securing a specimen of Leconte's Sparrow. The bird was taken at the edge of the marsh, where a stream had washed up the mud, making a higher and drier bank, and where, in consequence, the grasses were thicker and less aquatic in character. The specimen I obtained was a young bird, in the first plumage after the nestling plumage, thus, in all probability, showing that it had been bred at no very great distance from where it was taken. The date of its capture was October 11, 1897. Further careful search, both on the same day, and for many days thereafter, failed to reveal any more of the species. — LOUIS AGASSIZ FUERTES, *Ithaca, N. Y.*

**The Sea-side Sparrow on Cape Cod in Winter, and other Notes.** — I have been asked to report the following interesting records. Mr. Henry B. Bigelow and Mr. George C. Shattuck while walking over the salt marsh on Sandy Neck, Barnstable, Mass., on February 9, 1898, started from the grass a single Sea-side Sparrow (*Ammodramus maritimus*). Mr. Bigelow shot the bird at once and found it to be apparently in perfect health and without any marks of any old injuries. The sexual regions being badly torn by the shot, determination of the sex was impossible.

This is the first record of the wintering of this species in New England to my knowledge, for the bird probably wintered, and the capture also suggests the idea that the bird probably bred during the past season. Besides Mr. E. Sturtevant's records of the occurrence of this species at Middletown, R. I. (*Auk*, Vol. XIV, pp. 219 and 322) in May and July, 1889, 1896, 1897, we have Mr. J. A. Farley's record of its breeding at Westport, Mass. (*Auk*, Vol. XIV, pp. 322). Do these records signify the increasing number of competent observers in the field or the movement northward of the species's range from southern Rhode Island to Massachusetts?

On the same day, February 7, two Scaup Ducks (*Aythya marila nearctica?*) came in to the decoys put in the harbor of Barnstable, and although neither of the birds were taken, Mr. Shattuck feels confident of their identity as he knows the bird well. The usual northern limit of the Scaup Duck's winter range is Long Island, N. Y. Mr. R. W. Hall, Assistant in Zoölogy at Harvard University, tells me that he saw in Roxbury (Boston), Mass., on December 27, 1895, on the banks of Jamaica Pond in the shrubbery, a female Chewink (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*). This is the third winter record for Massachusetts for this species and the fourth for New England. — REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., *Longwood, Mass.*

**Lincoln's Sparrow in New Brunswick.** — On June 18, 1897, at Bright, York County, New Brunswick, my attention was attracted by a bird's song which reminded me both of the song of the Grass Finch and that of the American Goldfinch yet was different from either. The following day I returned to the same place with my gun and secured the singer,

which was later identified for me by Mr. Frank M. Chapman, to whom I sent it, as *Melospiza lincolni*.

This, I believe, is the first known instance of the occurrence of the species in New Brunswick. — WILLIE H. MOORE, *Scotch Lake, N. B.*

**Rank of the Sage Sparrow.** — On page 58 of the current volume of 'The Auk,' Mr. Joseph Grinnell states that he found *Amphispiza belli* and *Amphispiza belli nevadensis* inhabiting the same locality at the head of the Little Tujunga Cañon, Los Angeles County, California, in July, 1897. This area is on the western slope of the divide, though not more than ten miles from the Mohave Desert. Mr. Grinnell further states that he has never learned of any intermediate specimens between the two forms, and consequently argues that they are specifically distinct.

On the Death Valley Expedition in 1891, Mr. Frank Stephens collected a number of specimens on the eastern slope of the Sierras, opposite the south end of Owens Lake, which I reported as being intermediate in color and size (N. Am. Fauna, No. 7, p. 98).

Taking this into consideration and the fact that *Amphispiza b. nevadensis* had evidently wandered from their desert home, as Mr. Grinnell writes me they were fully fledged, I cannot agree with him that there is any reason for considering the two forms more than subspecifically distinct. — A. K. FISHER, *Washington, D. C.*

**Wintering of the Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) at Rockaway Beach, L. I.** — On the 29th of January, 1898, I made a collecting trip to Rockaway Beach in the hope of seeing some winter birds, as the weather had been very cold for several days, and on the day in question the air was full of flying snow. While passing through a small thicket of brambles I felt sure I heard the Towhee's note, and started in to investigate. Although he was exceedingly wild, I at length caught a glimpse of him, and by remaining quiet for some time eventually secured him. Later in the day, I found three more, all males, as was the one I shot. It is quite evident that this bird occasionally winters much further north than is generally supposed, as there are also records from Longwood, Mass., on Christmas, and Bedford, Mass., on Jan. 2 (Auk, July, 1896).

Mr. L. S. Foster informs me that he secured a specimen on Feb. 22, near Oradell, N. J. — HARRY WEBB FLOYD, *New York City.*

**The Rose-breasted Grosbeak in California.** — During a collecting trip last summer in northern California, Dr. C. H. Gilbert and a party of students secured some birds that were new to the fauna of the State. While at Meyer's, Humboldt Co., Cal., July 1, 1897, the attention of the party was attracted by a string of strange birds that had been shot some time before and were already in the early stages of decomposition. Not being able to decide what the birds were, several heads were cut off,